

This commanding building is a fitting tribute to Albuquerque balloonists Ben Abruzzo and Maxie Anderson who are recognized internationally for their first non-stop crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by gas balloon. Not only will this museum serve as a constant reminder of their legacies, but it will also offer extensive and educational exhibits that will inform and broaden ballooning enthusiasts for years to come.

The Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum will serve as an educational institution. The museum's innovative educational outreach plan includes field trip opportunities, lectures, and an emphasis on integrating the Balloon Museum into the Albuquerque Public Schools curriculum.

I am pleased to congratulate the Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum and all of those whose efforts and contributions have made this opening possible. I would like to especially thank the Anderson and Abruzzo families, whose vision and continued dedication have been the driving factor in the museum's completion. I would also like to thank the City of Albuquerque for embracing and financing this project. I am proud to join the community in celebrating this amazing new addition to New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues rise to congratulate the many professionals and volunteers who have helped to make this wonderful new museum a reality.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE TEMPORARY AGRICULTURAL LABOR REFORM ACT OF 2005

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce, along with my friend and colleague Representative MARION BERRY of Arkansas, the Temporary Agricultural Labor Reform Act of 2005, a bi-partisan bill to reform the H-2A guest worker program. As Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I have traveled across the nation and seen first-hand that the H-2A temporary visa process is not working. I have talked face to face with producers who have to deal with participating in a costly, time-consuming and flawed program. For example, employers have to comply with a lengthy labor certification process that is slow, bureaucratic and frustrating. In addition, they are forced to pay an artificially inflated wage rate. My bill will streamline the cumbersome requirements of the current H-2A program to make it a more viable option for our nation's farmers.

Likewise, as a long-time Member of the House Judiciary Committee, I understand the immigration problems that currently face our country. Illegal immigration penalizes those legal immigrants and citizens who play by the rules. It is estimated that there are over 10 million illegal aliens currently living in the United States. This population grows by over 350,000 each year. Clearly, this situation has reached crisis proportions and cannot be allowed to continue.

Some believe that the only way to reform the guest worker program is by including amnesty provisions and allowing illegal aliens to adjust to Legal Permanent Resident (LPR)

status. However, this would create the wrong incentive by encouraging foreign nationals to come into the country and break our laws. Amnesty is unfair to those foreign nationals trying to comply with our laws and encourages more people to come into the U.S. illegally with the thought that they, too, will get rewarded for their illegal actions in the future.

My bill would not grant an amnesty. Instead, it would require that anyone wishing to participate in the guest worker program must first return to their home country and apply from there to participate legally. This requirement will help us track who is entering our country and will create an incentive for those currently present illegally to return home and begin the process again while respecting our immigration laws.

In addition, this legislation would address a troublesome wage issue. Employers are required to pay an inflated wage called the Adverse Effect Wage Rate or AEWR. The AEWR was designed to protect similarly situated domestic workers from being adversely affected by guest workers coming into the country on a seasonal basis and being paid lower wages. However, the shortage of domestic workers in the farm workforce forces employers to hire foreign workers, and thus, is also forcing them to pay an inflated wage. My bill abolishes this unfair wage and creates a prevailing wage standard, under which, all workers are paid the same wage as workers doing similar work in that region.

The facts are simple. Agriculture needs a reliable guest worker program. Workers need access to stable, legal, temporary employment. It is in our national security interest to create a sensible way for workers to come in on a temporary basis, work, and go back to their home countries. My bill addresses problems in the guest worker program, and I look forward to working with Representative BERRY and all of the Members of this body to reform this program and make it a more viable process for everyone involved.

HONORING MR. BRUCE DE YOUNG ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. The work of educating our youth is one of the highest callings to which an individual may aspire. The values and information imparted to the minds of our children remain with them throughout their lives helping to guide their decisions and consequently, the directions of their families, communities, state, and our nation.

In recognition of the outstanding dedication of one man to this noble calling, I am pleased to extend my warmest commendation to Mr. Bruce De Young on the occasion of his retirement as Superintendent of Schools in the Ramsey, New Jersey Public School District.

Since 1992, Mr. De Young has served in the position of Superintendent of Schools, yet his dedication to education extends over many more years. Indeed, Mr. De Young has devoted thirty-six years to the field of education. From his position as Mathematics Supervisor for the Ramsey Public School District, to his

tenure as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, through his present position of Superintendent, Mr. De Young has enjoyed a career focused on providing the best education to his students.

Mr. De Young's contribution, however, reaches even beyond the classroom. As a member of the Legislative Committee of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators and a member of the Bergen County Association of School Administrators, the Association for Supervisors and Curriculum Development, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Mr. De Young has been willing to share his experience and knowledge for the purpose of bettering educational quality for countless students, both in New Jersey and across this great nation.

Moreover, through his willingness to mentor other Superintendents as they travel the path to permanent certification, Mr. De Young has ensured that his contribution to education will last not only throughout his career but also well into the future.

It is, therefore, with great honor and humility that I offer my sincerest appreciation and congratulations to Mr. De Young on the occasion of his retirement and I wish him a future filled with continued success.

RECOGNIZING BLAINE EVAN STECK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Blaine Evan Steck of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Blaine has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities and earning numerous merit badges. I am especially proud of Blaine's accomplishment, because he received the Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge for his visit to my Washington office and the Communications Merit Badge after writing a letter to me about the California legislature's attempt to prevent the Boy Scouts from using public facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Blaine Evan Steck for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF ROBERT McEWAN AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career contributions of Robert